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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 003402

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TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, JULY 26-28: ISLAMIC  
CHARITIES; DEATHS OF UDAY AND QUSAY HUSSEIN; IRAQI WMD

[11.](#) SUMMARY: All newspapers report government initiatives to oversee Islamic charitable donations, including formation of a joint committee to "inspect" charitable organizations and a proposed ministerial department to monitor Shiaa charitable funds, leading to denunciations by Shiaa MPs. One liberal commentator blames "governmental mismanagement and the absence of monitoring" for the diversion of funds to terrorist organizations.

On Iraq, reaction to the deaths of Uday and Qusay is predictably positive, although one commentator criticizes US forces for allowing Saddam's wife and former Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Sahaf to remain free. A noted liberal says that the fact that President Bush and PM Blair are facing heat on the Iraqi WMD issue is a positive example of how US and British leaders are held to account by their people. END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) News Stories: Minister of Interior Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahamd denied that there are Kuwaitis among the nineteen persons apprehended recently in Saudi Arabia for suspicion of carrying out terrorist acts.

Al-Seyassah reports that the new Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Abdullah Al-Matouq, is considering establishment of a Shiaa department at the Ministry to monitor Shiaa funds and donations. Al-Matouq stated that "it is vital to have bodies to organize collection and spending of Awqaf funds and donations to keep these activities beyond suspicion." Shiaa MPs accuse the Minister of harboring "bad intentions" against the Shiaa, Al-Seyassah reports.

Al-Qabas reports that an official source at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs stated that the Ministry has contacted the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and the Kuwait City Municipality in order to form a committee to inspect the work of charitable organizations.

Al-Seyassah reports on July 28 that the government called on the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs to remove all unlicensed charity booths in Kuwait

Al-Watan reports that a conservative MP, Jassim Al-Kandari, has reiterated opposition to granting women their political rights by warning against "submission to any foreign intervention, especially American pressure."

The Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarship at the Ministry of Higher Education Ahmad Al-Duwaisan responding in Al-Qabas to criticism of US student visa procedures stated that, "The Ministry fully understands the security situation of each country. and [the US Embassy] has denied only a limited number of applicants due to specific reasons."

Editorials:

[13.](#) "Kuwait, Enjoy the Occasion"  
Waleed Al-Jassim wrote in independent Al-Watan (7/26):  
"Kuwait, you have the right to enjoy the deaths of Uday and Qusai. Four months after their escape from one den to another in women's clothes, they were finally killed. Now, the journey is over and the allied forces succeeded in chopping off Saddam's wings. If Saddam is lucky, he will end up. running and hiding from one place to another. The other option, which most people wish, is see him in custody and put on trial for all the crimes he has committed."

[14.](#) Nabil Al-Fadel wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (7/26): "It is acceptable for the American forces to kill Uday and Qusai for what they did to the Iraqi people. However, we cannot understand why American forces leave Saddam's wife and daughters free despite knowing their whereabouts. It is not also acceptable to allow [former Minister of Information Mohammad] Al-Sahaf to leave Iraq, knowing that he defended Saddam's regime. Allowing Al-Sahaf

to remain free is not fair to the Iraqi people because it encourages supporters of Saddam's regime to continue the struggle against [coalition] forces in Iraq."

15. "Financing Terrorism"

Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (7/27): "We cannot rule out the possibility that [terrorists] exploit governmental mismanagement and the absence of monitoring to finance the young generation who volunteer to fight abroad. In other words, some governments, political movements, charitable organizations and religious movements which work under various covers contribute in the financing of terrorism."

16. "Iraq and the Upcoming Danger"

Mubarak Al-Hajiri wrote in independent Al-Watan (7/26): "Wherever you go, you keep hearing about the failure of America in Iraq. Personally, I do not see any American failure in Iraq, despite the daily human losses there. On the contrary, I believe that the coalition forces have succeeded in achieving their objectives. [However] any success will not be achieved without the support of the Iraqis themselves. Unless the coalition forces find a political solution to that which Iraq suffers from, the danger will remain."

17. "America's Milking Cow"

Dr. Sami Khalifa wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (7/26): "America's interests are only based on shallow self-interest. [which] has made the American administration act in such a way as both small and great nations must follow the will of the US or face economic or political sanctions. The US has based its policies on discrimination according to color, religion and cultures."

18. "Arabs and Iraq"

Dr. Shamlan al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (7/28): "Arab intellectuals who criticize the coalition are demanding the establishment of a democratic system in Iraq that is based on freedom and justice among all parties, but how many Arab countries have a real democratic regime? We are very confused by the Arabs because they are demanding Iraq's sovereignty and at the same time demand the departure of coalition forces from Iraq. There is no doubt that this would cause a civil war in Iraq. I tell the Arabs to be merciful with us and with the people of Iraq, because Iraq needs stability and security now. What the coalition forces are doing in Iraq now is correct and the reconstruction of Iraq will take time, so please keep your hands out of Iraq."

19. "Great Nations"

Dr. Ahmad Al-Baghdadi wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (7/28): "The great victory of the US and Britain in Iraq did not protect Bush and Blair, because they did not tell the truth about the reasons behind sending their armies to Iraq. The weapon inspectors have not found [WMD] in Iraq since the end of the war, meaning that Bush and Blair lied to their people and may end up paying dearly by losing in the next elections. Great people, like the people of America and Britain, are not concerned about the personal lives of their leaders, but they are concerned about honesty. Such ethics and the accountability of officials is what made them great nations, and this is the difference between them and us."